Dropsy Deaths

4320. SHRI ABANI ROY : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item captioned "66 dropsy deaths in 1998 blamed on PFA", as reported in the Times of India dated 7th April, 2000;

(b) if so, whether CVC, CBI and Government have received complaints about Director (PFA), Delhi shaking hands with traders, including cases relating to presence of argemone in food articles;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the action contemplated by the Union Government and whether a thorough enquiry keeping in view the public health interest, would be conducted; and

(d) if so, by when and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI N.T. SHANMUGAM) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) The CVC has received two complaints against the Director, PFA, Govt. of NCT of Delhi containing allegations of connivance with traders including in cases relating to presence of argemone in food articles. The allegations have been referred to the Director (Vig.), Govt. of NCT of Delhi for necessary action.

The CBI also received an endorsement of a complaint addressed to CVC from a Food Inspector regarding the high-handedness of the Director (PFA) and undue favour shown to Directors of certain firms by charge-sheeting only the nominees of the said companies and thereby saving them from consequences of prosecution for causing dropsy deaths. The complaint is being examined by the CBI.

Preventive Measures for Aids

4321. SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to save the Indian society from most dreaded disease of AIDS;

(b) if so, whether any preventive measure have been adopted;

(c) whether any literature has been propagated through various media to create awareness among the people; and

(d) if so, the broad features thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI N.T. SHANMUGAM) : (a) to (d) The Government of India has launched the National AIDS Control Project-II in December, 1999 which aims to implement a comprehensive programme for the prevention and control of HIV/AIDS in the country. The main strategies of the programme are :—

(i) Targeted Interventions to provide services and behaviour change communication to the most vulnerable and marginalised populations;

(ii) Extensive awareness programmes for the general population and strengthening the blood safety measures;

(iii) Low cost care for those already infected;

(iv) Inter-sectoral collaboration to generate a multi sectoral response through various Ministeries and civil society; and

(v) Strengthening institutions in India and make them capable of responding adequately to the epidemic.

An important strategy is also to involve NGOs, especially in the Targeted Interventions, School AIDS Education, Counselling and Low Cost Community Care.

Creating awareness is one of the most important thrust areas of the National AIDS Control Project-II. The focus of the strategy is on inter-personal communication and reaching out to the rural poor and the population in the urban slums. Various programmes are being broadcast/telecast on All India Radio and Doordarshan. Posters, pamphlets and other IEC material is developed in local languages. The field publicity units of the Directorate of Field Publicity and the Song & Drama Division of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting are also being utilised to create awareness among people.

Assistance to State Governments under National Family Welfare Programme

4322. SHRI LAJPAT RAI : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government of India, are releasing the amount in instalments to State Governments in respect of Centrally Sponsored Schemes